

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 298

Introduced by Schimek, 27

Read first time January 11, 1999

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to state government; to require reports of
- 2 boards, commissions, and similar entities as prescribed;
- 3 and to provide duties.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that state government
2 actions have produced an increase in the numbers of boards,
3 commissions, and similar entities that support, advise, direct, or
4 administer various state programs. The process has evolved without
5 sufficient legislative and executive oversight and without a system
6 of checks and balances. Because the Legislature is responsible for
7 the expenditure of public money and the shaping of the
8 administration of state government and is held accountable for
9 fiscal policy, the Legislature should also be responsible for the
10 termination, continuation, or modification of such boards,
11 commissions, and similar entities so that it may be assured that
12 its directives have been faithfully carried out.

13 Sec. 2. (1) In each even-numbered year, the Government,
14 Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall
15 prepare and publish a report pertaining to boards, commissions, and
16 similar entities created by law, by executive order, or by an
17 agency director that are made part of or are placed in the
18 executive branch of state government. The report shall be
19 submitted to the Legislature on December 1 of each even-numbered
20 year.

21 (2) The report shall include, but not be limited to, the
22 following:

23 (a) The name of each board, commission, or similar
24 entity;

25 (b) The name of a parent agency, if any;

26 (c) The statutory citation, executive order, or other
27 reference to the authorization for the creation of the board,
28 commission, or entity;

1 (d) The number of members of the board, commission, or
2 entity and how the members are appointed;

3 (e) The qualifications for membership on the board,
4 commission, or entity;

5 (f) The number of times the board, commission, or entity
6 is required to meet during the year and the number of times it
7 actually met;

8 (g) Budget information of the board, commission, or
9 entity for the two most recently completed fiscal years; and

10 (h) The accomplishments of the board, commission, or
11 entity for the past two years.

12 Sec. 3. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
13 Committee of the Legislature may randomly select any number of
14 boards, commissions, or similar entities for more extensive
15 evaluation. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to,
16 the following:

17 (1) A review of the basic assumptions underlying the
18 creation of the board, commission, or entity;

19 (2) A statement of the impact and effectiveness of the
20 programs, policies, services, or activities administered by, or
21 under the supervision of, the board, commission, or entity;

22 (3) A recommendation as to whether a more detailed
23 program evaluation shall be necessary; and

24 (4) A recommendation as to whether the board, commission,
25 or similar entity should be abolished.

26 Sec. 4. (1) All agencies, boards, commissions, and
27 departments of the state shall furnish such information, reports,
28 aid, services, and assistance as may be requested by the

1 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the
2 Legislature in the performance of the duties as set forth in this
3 act.

4 (2) The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
5 Committee of the Legislature shall use its staff and may also use
6 employees of the Director of Research of the Legislature, the
7 Legislative Fiscal Analyst, or any other division within the
8 Legislature as may be necessary in the performance of the duties
9 set forth in this act.